

Industry Terms



A.P.R. - Association of Plastic Recyclers

The Association of Plastic Recyclers is the national trade association representing companies who acquire, reprocess and sell the output of more than 90 percent of the post-consumer plastic processing capacity in North America. Its membership includes independent recycling companies of all sizes, processing numerous resins. APR strongly advocates the recycling of all post-consumer plastic packaging.

Biodegradable

Capable of decomposing under natural conditions.

Bioplastic

A form of plastics derived from renewable sources, such as vegetable oil, corn starch vs. traditional plastics are derived from petroleum.

Carbon Footprint

The measure of the amount of CO2 emitted over the full life cycle of a product.

Compostable

Compostability encompasses three factors - biodegradability, disintegration and ecotoxicity.

Biodegradability shows quantitatively the inherent nature of the material to be consumed by microorganisms. Biodegradability protects the environment by showing that the material will not accumulate. Disintegration measures whether the material breaks down and falls apart, thereby protecting the compost plant operator. It may or may not be biodegrading. Finally, ecotoxicity testing determines whether the material after composting shows any inhibition on plant growth or the survival of soil or aquatic fauna.

Industrial Composting: large scale composting designed to handle very high-volume organic waste. Industrial or commercial composting operations collect from restaurants, grocery stores or other food handling operations.

Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)

The Forest Stewardship Council sets standards for responsible forest management. A voluntary program, FSC uses the power of the marketplace to protect forests for future generations. Some people feel the best way to prevent deforestation is to stop using forest products. In reality, people use forest products every day. For example, the average American uses nearly six trees worth of paper each year. FSC harnesses market demand to ensure forests are responsibly managed. Because FSC is the gold standard in forest certification, it is the only system supported by groups such as WWF, Sierra Club, Greenpeace, Natural Resources Defense Council and National Wildlife Federation.

Mobius Loop



The common nickname for the recycling symbol. The three arrows represent
1) the collection and separation of recyclable material,
2) The manufacturing of these materials into new products and
3) The purchase and use of these recycled products.

Non-Wood or Tree-Free Fiber

Paper fibers derived from sources other than trees. Examples are bamboo, hemp, kenaf, textiles, wild grasses, and agricultural byproducts (sugar cane husks, straw left in the field after harvesting of the main crop).

PEFC

The Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) is an international non-profit, non-governmental organization dedicated to promoting Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) through independent third-party certification. Most widely used in Europe. www.pefc.org

PLA (Polylactide / Polylactic Acid)

A biodegradable polymer (film) made from lactic acid. Lactic acid is made from fermenting the sugar dextrose, which is found in many different agricultural crops, but the renewable resource corn is the main source.

Post Consumer Waste (PCW)

A material that has served its intended use that has been recycled into new paper.

Reforestation

A planned or deliberate movement to regrow vegetation lost due to human activity, natural calamity or sudden climate change.

Resin Identification Code (RIC)

A numerical coding system in which symbols and numbers are molded directly onto plastic to identify the resin. The RIC system is managed by ASTM, it is not a recycling code.

<p>PETE Polyethylene Terephthalate</p> <p>soda bottles water bottles shampoo bottles mouthwash bottles peanut butter jars</p>	<p>HDPE High Density Polyethylene</p> <p>Milk, Water & Juice Jugs Detergent Bottles Yogurt & Margarine Tubs Grocery Bags</p>	<p>V Vinyl</p> <p>clear food packaging shampoo bottles</p>	<p>LDPE Low Density Polyethylene</p> <p>Bread Bags Frozen Food Bags Squeeeable Bottles (mustard, honey)</p>	<p>PP Polypropylene</p> <p>Ketchup Bottles Yogurt & Margarine Tubs</p>	<p>PS Polystyrene</p> <p>Meat Trays Egg Cartons Cups & Plates</p>	<p>OTHER Other</p> <p>Ketchup 3 & 5 Gallon Water Bottles Some Juice Bottles</p>
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Sustainability

Meeting the needs of the present without diminishing the ability of future generations to meet their needs. Human practices should not result in permanent damage, alteration or depletion of the environment, ecosystems or natural resources.

Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI)

SFI is a solutions-oriented sustainability organization that collaborates on forest-based conservation and community initiatives that demonstrate and enhance our shared quality of life while providing supply chain assurances through standards, data, and authentic stories.

	<p>Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI)</p> <p>Products with the BPI label are designed to compost quickly, completely, and safely without any plastic residue. The certification is open to all products that meet or exceed ASTM D6400 or D6868.</p> <p>Biodegradable Products Institute. 2007. www.bpiworld.org</p>
	<p>Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)</p> <p>The FSC Certification ensures that the harvest of timber and non-timber products maintains the forest's biodiversity, productivity, and ecological processes. Forest Stewardship Council. 2007. www.fsc.org</p> <p>FSC Chain of Custody Label</p> <p>Chain of Custody is the path taken by raw materials harvested from an FSC certified source through processing, manufacturing, distribution and printing until the final product is ready for sale. The certification ensure that each member of the supply chain processes the ability to keep FSC certified sources separate from non-FSC certified materials.</p>
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